



SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mrs. Maxine B. Russell

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank S. Bacio
Vito Cannella
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore
Maxine B. Russell

Others Present

Jim Corbett, Asst. Chief, Commission
Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

This item was deferred to a future agenda

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano shared a news article regarding the recent burglary at one of the Greater Hope Society Group Homes. The complete contents of the home were stolen; subsequent news articles stated that several offers of replacement furniture, household goods, clothing and food were received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$952.02.

STAFF REPORT

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, reported on the following:

- A request for a copy of the DCFS follow-up report on the T&T Home for Boys was requested from Sonya Noils;
- The Commission approved the draft Holiday Greeting flyer from the Commission which will be sent to the Commission's mailing list; and
- No response has been received from the Post Office regarding their donation of undeliverable teen magazines (for Probation Camp Christmas gift bags); Ms. Scates will continue to follow-up.

Jim Corbett, Commission Services, remarked briefly on the recently announced retirement of Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, Director, Department of Health Services.

Ms. Scates distributed an invitation from Dr. Sanders, Director, DCFS, to attend a Learning Organization Group (LOG) Summit for public and private agency leaders, which will focus on public-private exchange in improving the effectiveness and appropriateness of residentially-based services for children and youth. Although the invitation was signed by Dr. Sanders, it was actually forwarded to the Commission several days after the last R.S.V.P. date by Ed Sosa, Division Chief, DCFS. As this topic has been the Commission's focus for years and is of great concern, Chair Montano and several Commissioners plan to attend.

REVIEW/COMMENT ON YEAR END REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Commissioner Russell asked that any suggestions/additions to the draft Year End Report be submitted to her so that she can compile them into the final report.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF COMMISSION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Moore submitted his suggested changes to the Commission's Ordinance, which will be forwarded to County Counsel for approval.

APPROVAL OF CAMERA PROTOCOL

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Bacio and unanimously carried, the Commissioners approved the Camera Protocol, subject to final approval by County Counsel.

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Cannella shared a personal note he received from Sheriff Lee Baca congratulating him on being awarded "2005 Man of the Year" by the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Human Services Network/Parthenia - #58-2

Commissioner Russell re-inspected this facility on November 29th and noted the following areas of concern: although it appears that an attempt was made to clean the pool, there were still marks on the bottom; food in the freezer was improperly protected and had freezer burn; 7 day supply of non-perishables did not look good; area around fireplace still has metal pieces jutting out; clothing in one bedroom was very messy; grouting around tubs/showers still messy; and the molding in one bedroom was cracked and jagged; all repairs seemed to be "band aid" solutions. Commissioner Russell noted that she re-interviewed a male resident but found him to be more restrained in his responses than he was during the last inspection; Commissioner Russell felt that it may have been because the facility staff was present during their discussion.

Rosemary Children's Services - #93-3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on November 28th and found the following areas of concern: dirty clothes in bedroom closet; one of the showers needs to be re-caulked. Commissioners noted that facility administration has completed all of the Auditor's Corrective Action items.

Rosemary Children's Services/Romberger House - #95-1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on November 25th and found the facility's condition/appearance to be much improved since the Commission's last inspection. Commissioners noted that facility administration has completed all of the Auditor's Corrective Action items.

Rosemary Children's Services/Bonnie House - #94-1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella inspected this facility on November 28th and found the following areas of concern: eating utensil supply needs replenishing; and top sheets missing on beds. Commissioners noted that Life Books are updated weekly and that disaster drills are conducted monthly.

C & R/Masada Home/South Shore - #22-3

Chair Montano inspected this facility on November 29th and found no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioners were most impressed with this facility and noted that this home should be the standard by which all other group homes are modeled.

Downey Branch Court

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on November 28th and found the following areas of concern: fire extinguishers had not been inspected in over a year; all administration personnel were off duty at the same time and the sergeant in charge was working overtime on loan from another assignment; and the Downey Police Department is not included in disaster drills/planning.

Bellflower Branch Court

Commissioners Moore and Bacio inspected this facility on November 29th and found the following areas of concern: the cabinet where the turnout gear is stored is not adequate, organized or secure; facility staff was not familiar with Command Inspections.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano distributed inspection assignments to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Scates
Commission Services Staff

DRAFT